10

15

CLAIMS

- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from:
- 5 (a) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (b) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, to a nucleotide sequence complementary the polypeptide coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and
 - (c) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.
 - 2. An isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.
- The isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 having an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 3 in the Sequence Listing
 - 4. A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.
- 5. A replicable expression vector, which carries and is capable of mediating the expression of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.
 - 6. A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 4 or 5.

10

15

25

30

- 7. A process for production of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 6 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.
- A method for identifying an agent useful for activating the expression of a mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising the steps
 (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
 - (ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the said mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule.
 - A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
 - (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
 - (ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the mammalian IPAS nucleotide sequence, such activation being indicative for an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.
- 20 10. A method for identifying an agent useful for stimulating the biological activities of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, said method comprising the steps
 - (i) contacting a candidate agent with the mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and
 - (ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide.
 - 11. A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
 - (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and

10

15

- (ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide, such stimulation being indicative for an agent useful for the treatment of a medical condition related to angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.
- 5 12. Use of an agent identified by the method according to any one of claims 8 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth.
 - 13. A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to any one of claims 8 to 11.
 - 14. The use or method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.